

'Suicide note' to be possible evidence?

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PETALING JAYA - The Attorney-General's Chambers, in a statement yesterday, has implied that there was a "suicide note," which was first found inside Teoh Beng Hock's sling bag more than two months after his death in July last year – but was only recently considered as possible evidence.

The A-G's Chambers said it had to thoroughly check and determine the authenticity of the note before deciding to tender it as evidence, which became a point of contention at Teoh's inquest on Monday.

Attorney-General Abdul Gani Patail was initially not convinced of the authenticity of the note due to the time it took to discover the letter and the "insufficient samples to verify the handwriting – in particular the Chinese characters."

The statement also said that the investigating officer Asst Supt Ahmad Nasir Zainal conducted another search of the bag after being advised by a psychiatrist that "ordinarily there would be a note left in a suicide case."

The statement said the note was translated and sent to be analysed by the document examiner of the Chemistry Department.

"The A-G's Chambers will tender a document as evidence only and until, it is satisfied that any shroud of suspicion surrounding it has been lifted," it added.

Gobind_LeeLan

Gobind (right) and Teoh Beng Hock's sister Lee Lan leaving the Shah Alam court Monday. - The Star

Denying, there was any suppression of evidence, the Chambers said the A-G decided to put the note before the coroner for him to decide on it as well as to consider ASP Ahmad Nasir's explanation.

Teoh, the political secretary to Selangor executive councillor Ean Yong Hian Wah, was summoned to the Selangor MACC office on the 14th floor of Plaza Masalam in Shah Alam on July 15 last year to be queried over the alleged disbursement of state funds.

The 30-year-old ex-journalist was found dead the following day.

Meanwhile, several parties in the inquest expressed their dissatisfaction over the introduction of the note.

Gobind Singh Deo, who is counsel for Teoh's family, said had the evidence been revealed earlier, the experts who had testified could have also evaluated it.

"These documents are crucial and would have changed the nature of the inquest significantly," Gobind said yesterday.

Counsel Malik Imtiaz Sarwar, who is representing the Selangor government, also said that had the document been revealed earlier, the case might have been conducted differently; and the witnesses cross-examined differently as well.

In Malacca, Teoh's sister Lee Lan, who is also spokesperson for the family, said: "I do not wish to comment on this as I do not know whether it (the note) is true or not." - The Star

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